



The Mullet Wrapper

The official newsletter of
Cumberland Island National Seashore

December through February 2007

Letter from the Superintendent

"Grande Avenue", NPS Photo

The President is proposing the largest increase ever for park operations and programs that directly benefit national parks. The fiscal year 2008 budget request is part of the President's National Park Centennial Initiative which could generate \$3 billion in public/private investment in our national parks over the next ten years.

The Centennial Initiative emphasizes three key goals:

1. Engage all Americans in preserving our heritage, history and natural resources through philanthropy and partnerships.
2. Reconnect people with their parks.
3. Build capacity for critical park operations and facilities, and sustain them through the next century.

For Cumberland Island this means increased funding to protect the park's natural, cultural and historic resources. We will be able to significantly enhance the visitor experience by providing improved facilities, and more ranger-led programs.

As part of the Centennial Initiative I have submitted two Centennial Signature Projects for Cumberland Island:

1. Develop a world class environmental learning center on the island.
2. Establish a visitor contact station at Plum Orchard.

I am encouraging all park employees and stakeholders to submit their ideas for signature projects that will enhance Cumberland Island's ability to maintain excellence in conservation, preservation, and visitor enjoyment for the next century.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Justin Helton
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Jerre Brumbelow
Superintendent

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Meeting

On March 1, a public meeting was held at Camden County High School to discuss the newly legislated Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. The meeting was held to provide the community with more information about the Corridor

and the creation of the commission.

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage

Corridor is one of 37

such heritage areas in the United States, and encompasses the coasts of southern North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

A national heritage area is a federally-designated area where the geography has been shaped by patterns of human activity that give the area a unique cultural landscape, according to an NPS release.

Michael Allen of the South Carolina African-American Heritage Commission said the entire Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor is about the size of Maryland, and is the only national heritage area to deal with African-American heritage in the U.S. Also in attendance were Kingsland Mayor Kenneth Smith,



Cumberland Island National Seashore Superintendent Jerre Brumbelow, Florida State Historic Preservation Officer Barbara

From left to right: Ms. Barbara Mattick, Ms. Jeanne Cyriaque, Mr. Jerre Brumbelow, Mr. Michael Allen, and Ms. Cynthia Hays.

Mattick, and Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer Jeanne Cyriaque.

House Majority Whip and Sixth District Congressman James E. Clyburn announced that the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation

officers began accepting nominations for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission on February 12. All nominations must be received by March 30.

The 15 member commission will be made up of four individuals nominated by the South Carolina Historic Preservation officers and two individuals each nominated by the State Historic Preservation officers from Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

Additionally, two individuals from South Carolina and one each from Florida, Georgia and North Carolina will be nominated for the commission who are recognized experts in historic preservation, anthropology and folklore. All members of the commission will be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Cumberland Island National Seashore is a prominent site for Gullah/Geechee heritage. "Basically, all of the slaves that were brought over here from Africa landed somewhere on the southeastern coast," said Superintendent Jerre Brumbelow.

Robert Stafford was the largest cotton planter and landowner on Cumberland Island for years, and reported in 1850 that he owned 348 slaves. Some descendants of those slaves lived on the island until the late 1970s, well after Cumberland Island National Seashore was established in 1972.



Over 50 people were in attendance at the meeting.

-Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Ranger DIVISION

Ah, Hunt season is over, no hunting accidents, the ferry is not running on Tuesdays and Wednesday, it is time to kick back and relax and catch our breath. NOT!!! January and February have been turned into training months especially training Tuesday (give Ginger credit for the naming). This February Ginger scheduled numerous interpretive trainings: I scheduled The First Responder Training.

The Emergency Medical Services most important entity is the First Responder. Cumberland Island National Seashore has four First Responders: Ginger Cox, Brian Wentworth, Pauline Wentworth, Rene Noe. These individuals were recertified as First Responders during the American Red Cross training on Tuesdays during February. Individuals receiving Advanced First Aid training were: Doug Hoffman, Justin Helton, Ron Crawford, Debbie Britt. These individuals learned advance Emergency Medical Skills such as oxygen administration, back boarding, and patient assessment. The following individuals took the CPR part of the course along



Interpretive Rangers Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox (foreground) and Rene Noe prepare for CPR training.

with the First Responders and Advanced First Aid Class: Dennis Curry, Josh Lewis, Wayne Lagasse, John Hannans.



SCEP employee Josh Lewis and Small Craft Operator Wayne Lagasse assemble their CPR dummies.

Thirteen Individuals altogether were trained in Emergency Medical Skills. The development of a successful Emergency Response Team requires training at all levels.

Cumberland Island has been vigilant in training medical staff and maintaining medical equipment in a ready order to respond to any type

of medical emergency.

The individuals that are First Responders are the EMTs of tomorrow, the individuals that took Advanced First Aid are the First Responders of tomorrow and the individuals that took CPR are the Advance First Aid Responders of tomorrow. It takes time and dedication to maintain a professional Emergency Medical Response Team. I would like to say Thank You for a job well done by our trained Medical Response Personnel.

Acting Chief Ranger
Eric Ulitalo

Beach Driving

This is just a reminder for those who have beach driving permits that the annual night driving restrictions will take effect soon. Per the Georgia Shoreline Protection Act, **beach driving will be restricted to daylight hours only, from May 1st to October 31st.**

Additional sections in the Act include a **maximum speed limit of 25 mph from August 1 through March 31 and 20 mph from April 1 through July 31.** Also, driving is limited to the "wet sand beach", which means stay below the average high tide line. Driving above the highest high tide line and along the edge of the dunes has the potential to affect shorebirds and their nests as well as sea turtle nests.

Any questions regarding beach driving regulations can be directed to the park's Resource Management Division or the Georgia Department of Natural Resource's Coastal Resources Division in Brunswick.

-Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist



Chief Ranger Dennis Parsons presents Visitor Use Assistant Patrice Campbell with a certificate and plaque for 20 years of service to the Federal Government. Thanks Pat and keep up the good work!

2007 Horse Count

The 2007 Annual Horse Count was held on Cumberland Island over the March 9-11 weekend, with 31 volunteers and staff participating. The count saw a downward spike in the total number of horses tallied at 120. That is noticeably down (about 15%) from the past four years of using the standard routes and methods, which have averaged approximately 141 horses and ranged from 137-144 (see the attached table). It is completely unknown if the lower number has any significance, as more analysis and years of data are required before a valid assessment of population trends can be made.

It should also be emphasized that this is not the total number of horses on the island but, rather the numbers seen during the respective counts. Many thanks to all of the volunteers and park staff who helped make the count highly successful again this year. Pulling off the Horse Count is truly a park-wide effort.

-John Fry
Resource Manager



2007 Horse Count participants.

YEAR	HORSES TALLIED
2007	120
2006	143
2005	139
2004	137
2003	144

Camden Leadership Class



Camden Leadership Class spent a day on a volunteer service project as part of their community leadership curriculum. They chose Cumberland Island for their project focus. Here, they scrape paint on the historic Stafford Beach Cottage, which is currently being renovated by the Park Service.

Cumberland Macon Group



The Cumberland Macon Group has been camping on the island for over 30 years. Here they are poised and ready for some volunteer work. Numerous volunteer groups come from far and near to make trails more accessible, clean beaches, remove trash and fence from wilderness areas, build decks, and do various other maintenance and preservation tasks.

A Look Back...



Bachlott-Peeples-Merrow House



Dungeness



Plum Orchard

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

VOLUNTEER!

“Tuesday Training”

Staff, volunteers, and island residents enjoyed a variety of training opportunities during the Winter months. Sessions included: a trip to the North End, day of dockside and interpretive training, mounting and framing for exhibits, EMS/CPR and first responder training and archaeology and the arts. Here, John Jameson and Steven Kidd, from Southeastern



John Jameson and Steven Kidd, from Southeastern Archaeological Center discuss threats to archaeological resources.

Archaeological Center discuss threats to archaeological resources and how artifacts revealed during excavations provide clues about

the island's various time periods. Also invited to speak was St. Augustine artist, Theodore Morris, whose artistic renderings of native peoples are supported by archaeological and anthropological studies.

Clean Coast Crew

Cumberland Island beach is the longest stretch of undeveloped shoreline left on the east coast. It provides nesting and habitat for shore birds, sea turtles, crabs, and many other creatures, as well a beach we can enjoy in its natural state. While visitors do a great job taking personal trash off the island, we do get a large amount of trash and debris that washes up on the beach, especially after a storm. On the last weekend in February, the Clean Coast group out of Savannah, hiked the entire length of the beach

and collectively removed 125 bags of garbage. Removing the garbage gets rid of unsightly trash, but more importantly it also removes serious threats to island wildlife. Plastic bags, balloons, and Styrofoam pose the biggest threats, as birds and turtles ingest them or get objects tangled around necks and limbs.



Ranger Dennis Curry and Clean Coast Crew

Volunteer Kudos

Rodney and Kathy Kling are veteran NPS volunteers, most recently serving on Cumberland Island for two months. While on Cumberland they served as all round “go-getters”, checking in campers, answering visitor questions, replacing screens, repairing bicycles, painting and other maintenance work, organizing slides in library, greeting the ferry,



opening facilities, assisting with logistics for other work groups and volunteers, assisting with plum orchard tours, promoting Junior Ranger programs, attending training sessions, doing keeping campgrounds clean, and numerous other tasks. They were a definite plus to have as a constant presence at Sea Camp, which allowed rangers time to attend to museum exhibits and other projects. Thank you Rodney and Kathy for all that you do!

-Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox
Interpretive Ranger

New Faces...



From left to right: SCEP students John Hannans and Josh Lewis.

I'm sure you all have noticed that the maintenance department has two new faces. Josh Lewis and John Hannans are our two new SCEP (Student Career Experience Program) employees. Josh reported to work for his first day on October 1, 2006 and John reported on January 22, 2007. They both seem to have adapted really well to the day to day requirements on the island and mainland, and are doing a good job. If you run into them during the day, please feel free to introduce yourself, so we can all make them feel at home. Welcome aboard John and Josh, and keep up the good work!!!

-Carl David

Supervisor Maintenance Mechanic



Extend An Island Welcome...



to the Curry Family. Pictured to the left are Ranger Dennis Curry, his wife of 24 years, Jeanne, their son McKenzie, and the family pet: Shadow.

Dennis started his career 18 years ago, as a seasonal law enforcement ranger, as well as serving on fire crews for various state parks. He became interested in caving and rock climbing as a personal hobby and this proved to be the foundation for his next assignment. What drew him to accept a permanent position with the Park

Service at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Battle field was the fact that the area offered some of the best caving in the southeast. Curry lived and worked in the park, and served as 2nd Lt. Cmdr of the Cave Rescue Team, as the Cave Rescue Instructor, and of course served on all rescue, EMS, and law enforcement teams. Curry stated that he felt it was time for

a change, so now he and his family will be discovering some of the island stories, as he has accepted a position with Cumberland Island as a Law Enforcement Ranger, with EMS and fire duties as well. They have found the staff to be friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable, and have discovered that it is nice to have more positive interaction with the visitors, as opposed to issuing citations more often than not.

Jeanne is retired from 15 years as a state employee with the Department of Human Services where she supervised 29 counties. She says she is now in "teacher mode", thoroughly enjoying home schooling their son, McKenzie.

McKenzie, turned 7 years old on March 19th. Happy Birthday McKenzie! He was named after the Curry's "first child" a wolf pup born in the McKenzie Valley of Canada. He likes "hanging out" with his mom, learning stuff, nature, and making new friends.

-Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox
Interpretive Ranger

Maintenance Division

The Plum Orchard interior restoration project is still in progress. Carpenters, painters, plumbers, pipe fitters, electricians, a wall paper conservationist and plasterers are hard at work restoring the mansion. The most noticeable change is the appearance of fire piping for the fire protection system especially under the porch ceilings. The piping is there to protect the structure in the event of a fire and a requirement of the National Fire Protection Association "NFPA" 13. All pipes will be painted to match the existing fabric.

-David Casey
Facility Manager



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Avoid A Major Accident

Close call incidents happen more frequently than you think. Did you catch yourself from slipping any time today? Did you walk over a spill in the lunch room? Or did you get a minor electrical shock from a power tool you were using?

All of these minor incidents can lead to major accidents if they are not reported and the hazard repaired or removed.



It may seem a little ridiculous to you to report every little incident you may encounter during the day. What if your boss gets angry at you for reporting a close call incident?

What if you ruin your perfect safety record for reporting a near-accident? No doubt these questions have crossed your mind – but are any of these questions important if a close incident forgotten turns into the death of a co-worker? It happens.

Perhaps you are not sure what a close call incident is. Let's look at these examples:

- A co-worker is using a ladder. It seems fine, but as he comes down, one of the rungs sags as he steps on it. He notices a crack. He puts the ladder back without tagging it as needing repairs. The next day you grab the same ladder. As you start to climb you put your foot through the rung, lose your balance and fall, spraining your ankle.
- You are hurrying into work as you are running late. As you back out of your driveway, you bump

the garbage can because your brakes don't seem to respond normally. You think nothing of it, but as you drive home that evening, your brakes fail and you crash into a telephone pole.

- Your co-worker grabs a cup of coffee and spills some of it on the floor. You see him spill it but you step over it on your way to the coffee pot. The next minute you hear a loud crash. Someone else has gone in the lunchroom with supplies and has fallen on the floor after slipping on the coffee. He has broken his wrist.

All three of these accidents involved a warning signal. That warning is a close call incident. In the case of the cracked ladder rung, all it would have taken was a tag saying "defective" or "not usable" and then reporting it to the right people to have it fixed. With the car brakes, it would have taken a telephone call to a reliable mechanic as soon as you suspected trouble. And the spilled coffee? You saw it spilled as well. Even if the one who created the spill doesn't clean it up, that doesn't mean you just step over it. You have a responsibility to clean it up as well. Do you report a spilled cup of coffee to your supervisor? Probably not — but leaving it could mean filling out an accident report later.

These close call incidents may seem small, but all little incidents can lead to big accidents. Be on the lookout. With your eyes open you will prevent grief for yourself or a co-worker.



-Safety Smart

Larry Pilcher's Farewell Luncheon

Purchasing Agent Larry Pilcher transferred to the Department of Defense in Albany, Georgia on January 19, 2007. Here are some photos from the Employee's Association-sponsored luncheon at Lang's Marina on January 18, 2007.



Presentation to Larry of the NPS Arrowhead by Superintendent Jerre Brumbelow



Presentation of gift from the Employee's Association by Administrative Officer Julie Meeks



Gifts for Big Larry



Luncheon Guests



We will all miss you!



Luncheon Guests

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Red Bay Tree Update

Most of you have probably noticed the increasing number of dead red bay trees on the island and around St. Marys. Actually if you have traveled the east coast recently you would have noticed dead red bays ranging as far north as Charleston, SC and southward to St. Augustine, FL. This large scale mortality is associated with a non-native beetle called the Ambrosia beetle. The beetle is native to Asia and likely gained entry into the U.S. in wooden pallets on ships.

The beetle's activities (boring, egg laying and feeding) appear to be minimally harmful to red bays. However, the beetle



Park Service and Forest Service personnel injecting a red bay with fungicide. On average, a tree takes 90 minutes to ingest a sufficient amount of chemical.

carries a fungus which is introduced into the tree during boring activities. Our red bays have no defense mechanism to combat the fungus and it eventually travels throughout the tree, resulting in eventual death. Trees can appear healthy one day,

wilting the next, and turn completely reddish brown several days after. Once dead, the reddish leaves will remain on the tree for an extensive period of time, possibly a year or more.

The beetle is thought to have entered the U.S. in 2003 and since then has spread rapidly along the east coast. Foresters, entomologists, and plant pathologists from both state and federal agencies are working diligently to find a control for the beetle. However, there is fear that the rapid spread we are currently experiencing may eventually lead to extinction of the red bay species before an answer can be found. The beetle has shown an ability to jump to other tree species, sassafras and avocado in particular. If the beetle makes its way down to the Miami/Homestead, FL area it could devastate the local avocado industry.

I'm sure by now that some of you are asking yourselves "what is being done on Cumberland to save the red bay?" The

Resource Management Division is currently working on the problem at two levels. First, we are collecting seeds from as many trees as possible. Seeds will be transferred to the USDA seed lab in central Georgia for long term storage. Experts with the seed lab feel that seed collection may be the best option. The lab has the capability to store seeds for an extended period. Stored seeds could be used to replant in the future if the beetle and fungus are controlled. Secondly, Cumberland has been hosting insect and disease experts from the U.S. Forest Service for the last 6 months. They are currently testing a fungicide to "vaccinate" individual trees to help them fight off infection. This process is time consuming (1 to 2 hours per tree) and should be repeated every 1 to 5 years. Our current plan is to treat a representative sample of trees on the island in hopes that they will remain alive through the beetle invasion.

Cumberland's red bay decline started on the south end around Dungeness and is working its way northward. Numerous dead trees can be seen all the way up to Stafford Field. Tests conducted by the Forest Service suggest that the fungus is present in trees on the north end as well, although there are currently few dead trees there. Cumberland has an extensive population of red bays, ranging from tiny seedlings to mature trees. Let's hope that our volume and variety of red bays can somehow survive what appears to be a bleak future.

Submitted by Doug Hoffman



Cumberland's resource management staff collects red bay seeds for storage in USDA's seed lab.

Administration

On February 2, 2007, GSA raised the reimbursement cost for the use of Privately Owned Vehicles [if no government vehicle is available] from \$.445 to \$.485 cents per mile.

Fifty years ago, President Eisenhower launched a ten-year, one billion dollar program that was approved by congress that provided for upgrading park facilities, staffing and resource management capabilities throughout the park system to commemorate its 50th anniversary. Now, as the park system prepares for its centennial, it appears that Congress once again will approve a record amount of \$258 million. The increase will positively impact all NPS units and at Cumberland Island National Seashore we are also targeted to receive a \$405 base increase to be used for implementation of the new wilderness plan and for protection of endangered species.

Cumberland Island has once again been authorized funding for the park to host a Summer of 2007 Youth Conservation Corps [YCC] program during the summer. The dates

for the program have been set to begin on May 29 and to end on July 20. Due to the short summer break for the Camden County School system, there is just barely enough time to fit in eight weeks of work time for the students. We are pleased that Mr. Mark Feine has once again agreed to serve as the team leader for the YCC students. This will be his fourth year working in this capacity. Mr. Feine and Visitor Use Assistant Pauline Wentworth attended Career Day at

Camden County High School on March 22 and presented a glimpse of the YCC program to those in attendance. We are looking forward to another successful year!

Our park has received the funding to begin the rehabilitation on the Alberty House. The work is targeted to begin next month. The plans are to not only rehab the historic house but also to add facilities for visitors in order for the Alberty House to not only serve as a comfort station but also as an Interpretive Site. Since recent legislation was passed that opened up the northern section of the island, this rehab is in anticipation of increased visitation to the north end.

All employees please make certain to carefully examine your leave and earnings statements to make certain that any payroll withholding-related changes you elected for the new year have taken effect and are correct.

Until next time.
julie

Get Well
Soon,
Dennis

Hints from Helton

Ten Tips For Computer Users

Adapted from The 12 Golden Tips for Office Workers, 1996

- 1.) Position wrists straight, at or below elbow height.
- 2.) Support your back.
- 3.) Position knees at or below hip height.
- 4.) Adjust chair to fit YOU.
- 5.) Relax neck, shoulders and arms with head upright.
- 6.) Position the document holder close to the monitor, near eye level.
- 7.) Place the mouse next to the keyboard, at or below elbow height.
- 8.) Position the monitor in front of you with the top of the monitor near eye level, at arm's length away.
- 9.) Tilt the monitor or adjust lighting to avoid glare.
- 10.) Most Important! Stretch or walk at least once per hour, keep moving throughout the day.

-Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

Quote Corner:

"It is the province of knowledge to speak and
it is the privilege of wisdom to listen."

-Aristotle

Upcoming TELNPS Courses:

April 11

9:30 - 12:30pmET or

1:30 - 4:30pmET

"SMIS: The "Ins and Outs" for Safety Managers and CDSOs"

Course Code: NPS-RSK6180

Last Day to Register: April 9

This interactive television workshop is designed to provide Safety Managers and Collateral Duty Safety Officers with an understanding of the recent changes in the DOI Safety Management Information System (SMIS). Particular emphasis is on how to use the new reporting

June 5th

12:00-4:00pmET

"INT Informal Visitor Contacts TEL "

Course Code: NPS-INT1102T

Last Day To Register: June 3

The broadcast will discuss how to assess visitor needs and demonstrate effective customer service by providing basic or in-depth information and orientation. The broadcast will also present strategies to facilitate meaningful, memorable visitor experiences, and address park and NPS goals through effective informal interpretation. Familiarity with the foundational principles of the Interpretive Development Program (Module 101) is helpful but not required.

June 11th

12:30-4:30pmET

"Legal Update"

Course Code: NPS-LAW2000

Last Day to Register: June 6
Four hours of Legal Update training presented by NPS and FLETC staff. This training is for any Law Enforcement Officer in the NPS. More information can be found on the FLETC website.

June 13th

12:30-3:30pmET

"LE Refresher"

Course Code: NPS-LAW2010

Last Day to Register: June 7
Three hours of varied topics to include: use of force, vehicle stops, vehicle liability and pursuit policy, diplomatic immunity, pre assault indicators, resource law, flying armed, report writing, etc. Topics for specified dates announced prior to class. More information can be found on the FLETC website.

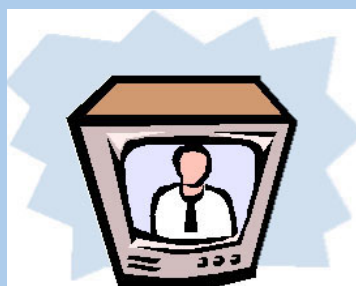
July 23rd & August 28th

1:00-3:00pmET

"Retirement Planning for New Employees"

Course Code: NPS-UNC6300

Last Day to Register: July 31
This training is designed to enable employees who are just beginning their careers to plan prudently for their retirement.





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